Case 2532

Phymatodes Mulsant, 1839 and *Phymatestes* Pascoe, 1867 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the currently used generic names *Phymatodes* Mulsant, 1839 and *Phymatestes* Pascoe, 1867, which belong to the families CERAMBYCIDAE and TENEBRIONIDAE respectively. *Phymatodes* Mulsant, 1839 is threatened as it is a junior objective synonym of *Merium* Kirby, 1837 and also a junior homonym of *Phymatodes* Dejean, 1834, both unused. *Phymatestes* Pascoe, 1867 is a junior objective synonym of *Phymatodes* Dejean, 1834.

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1. Dejean (1834, p. 203) introduced the generic name *Phymatodes* (family TENEBRIONIDAE) for *Lagria tuberculata* Fabricius, 1792 (p. 78) and a *nomen nudum, Phymatodes brevicornis* Dejean (described later by Lacordaire, 1859, p. 395, note 2). Neave (1940, p. 747) treated *Phymatodes* as a *nomen nudum* but according to Art. 12b (5) of the Code it is an available name and *Lagria tuberculata* Fabricius, 1792 is the type species by monotypy.

2. Blanchard (1845, p. 39) gave a description of *Phymathodes* [*sic*] Dejean, and mentioned (p. 45) '*P. scabra* Fabricius' as the only species but without any reference to a Fabricius work. However, Fabricius described several species of Coleoptera under the name *scabra,* and thus '*P. scabra* Fabricius' is a *nomen nudum* and cannot be the type species of a genus. In fact, *Phymathodes* Blanchard, 1845 is only an incorrect subsequent spelling of *Phymatodes* Dejean, 1834 (Blanchard cited Dejean after the name) and is hence unavailable.

3. Mulsant (1839, pp. 39 & 47) described a new genus *Phymatodes* in the family CERAMBYCIDAE; the type species *Cerambyx variabilis* Linnaeus, 1761 (p. 192) was designated by LeConte (1850, p. 32).

4. Pascoe (1867, p. 142) introduced a replacement name, *Phymatestes,* for '*Phymatodes*' Blanchard, 1845 *nec* Mulsant, 1839. The name *Phymatestes* Pascoe, 1867 is accepted by all TENEBRIONIDAE specialists and is still used at the present time. I know of no use of *Phymatodes* Dejean, 1834 (or Blanchard, 1845) after the work of Pascoe (1867). *Phymatestes* Pascoe, 1867 is a little known South American genus with six species (see Gebien, 1911 in his World Catalogue). The type species is *Lagria tuberculata* by indication (Art. 67h of the Code).

5. The cerambycid genus *Phymatodes* Mulsant, 1839 is a large (several dozen species) and very well known holarctic genus with many species of economic importance. In the 19th century this genus was treated by many authors as a subgenus of *Callidium* Fabricius, 1775 (p. 187).

6. Linsley (1957, p. 287) showed that *Merium* Kirby, 1837 (p. 172) is a senior objective synonym of *Phymatodes* Mulsant, 1839, as the type species of *Merium* is *Cerambyx*

variabilis Linnaeus, 1761 by original designation (Kirby states that '*Cerambyx variabilis* may be considered as its type'). Inconsistently, Linsley used the name *Phymatodes* Mulsant, 1839 as a valid name in his monograph (1964, p. 44) and cited *Merium* Kirby, 1837 in synonymy. I know of no use of *Merium* Kirby, 1837 as a valid name for *Phymatodes* Mulsant, 1839.

7. LeConte (1873, p. 296) designated *Merium proteus* Kirby, 1837 (p. 172) as the type species of *Merium* Kirby, but this is invalid (see above). Linsley (1957, p. 287) consistently treated *Merium* LeConte, 1873 as a junior homonym of *Merium* Kirby, 1837 and introduced a replacement name, *Meriellum*, for *Merium* LeConte, 1873 *nec* Kirby, 1837.

8. The application of the Code rules to both families would disrupt stability and cause confusion. In the TENEBRIONIDAE, according to the Principle of Priority the valid name is *Phymatodes* Dejean, 1834, unused for over 100 years. In the CERAMBYCIDAE *Phymatodes* Mulsant, 1839 is invalid as a junior homonym of *Phymatodes* Dejean, 1834, although it is in common use, and it is also a junior objective synonym of the unused *Merium* Kirby, 1837.

9. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following generic names:
  (a) *Phymatodes* Dejean, 1834, and all uses of that name prior to the publication of *Phymatodes* Mulsant, 1839, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
  (b) *Merium* Kirby, 1837, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
  (a) *Phymatodes* Mulsant, 1839 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by LeConte (1850) *Cerambyx variabilis* Linnaeus, 1761;
  (b) *Phymatestes* Pascoe, 1867 (gender: masculine), type species by indication *Lagria tuberculata* Fabricius, 1792;
  (c) *Meriellum* Linsley, 1957 (gender: neuter), type species by indication *Merium proteus* Kirby, 1837;
(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  (a) *variabilis* Linnaeus, 1761, as published in the binomen *Cerambyx variabilis* (specific name of the type species of *Phymatodes* Mulsant, 1839);
  (b) *tuberculata* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen *Lagria tuberculata* (specific name of the type species of *Phymatestes* Pascoe, 1867);
  (c) *proteus* Kirby, 1837, as published in the binomen *Merium proteus* (specific name of the type species of *Meriellum* Linsley, 1957);
(4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
  (a) *Phymatodes* Dejean, 1834 as suppressed in (1) (a) above;
  (b) *Merium* Kirby, 1837 as suppressed in (1) (b) above.

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